

PUBLIC NOTICE



**US Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District**

**Project No: 2018-001-CW
Issue Date: 2018-09-26
Close Date: 2018-10-26**

INTRODUCTION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District (USACE-NWK), has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the proposed Modernize Water Treatment Operations Project at Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (LCAAP). The project is located on the east side of Independence, Missouri and less than five miles from the City of Buckner. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project would not result in significant degradation to the environment and therefore supports preparation of a draft FONSI. The EA, draft FONSI and supporting information are provided with issuance of this Public Notice on 26 September 2018 to initiate the 30-day public review and comment period.

This Public Notice and project related information are being provided to solicit public input on the proposed action. Any interested party is invited to submit to this office written facts or objections relative to the proposed project, both favorable and unfavorable in nature. All comments will be accepted, responded to, and made part of the public record. Copies of all comments, including names and addresses of commenters, may be provided to applicants upon request. The USACE will consider all pertinent comments in preparing final documentation for completion of the NEPA process through signature of the FONSI by the LCAAP Commander.

CONTACT INFORMATION: The EA and draft FONSI for this project are published in the Examiner Newspaper and available for review at the USACE, Kansas City District office and on line at the following web page: <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/Media/Public-Notices/Planning-Public-Notices>. The USACE will review comments received in response to this Public Notice to complete project evaluation for compliance with the requirements of NEPA, and other Federal, state, and local regulations. Project information may also be obtained by contacting Mr. Chris Name, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, ATTN: Environmental Resources Section, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, by email at chris.name@usace.army.mil, or by telephone at (816) 389-3829. All comments to this public notice should be directed to the above address on or before 26 October 2018.

PROJECT LOCATION: (As shown on the attached maps): The project is located on the east side of Independence, Missouri and less than 5-miles from the City of Buckner (Figure 1). The project area is approximately 6-acres and is located entirely on LCAAP.

ACTIVITY: (As shown on the attached figure): The USACE-NWK, on behalf of LCAAP, proposes new, modernized WTP facilities to be built adjacent to the existing WTP (Figure 2). The new facilities would have an estimated 50-year project life and cost approximately \$83.5 million. Land

disturbance is expected to be approximately 6-acres. New construction would utilize energy efficient materials and include the reallocation of existing serviceable structures (lime softening basin, aerator, and backwash equalization basin). Water supply capability would be approximately 3 million gallons per day (mgd). Construction would include a new lime softening basin, re-carbonation basin, gravity filters, clearwell, high service pumps, 0-grain production water, chemical feed storage and distribution. For security purposes, a fence would be installed around the perimeter and access points would be controlled. Parking areas and road improvements would be constructed within the project area, tying into the LCAAP road network. Once constructed and operational, the contractor would also be responsible for the demolition and disposal of non-essential WTP structures/facilities. Disturbed areas would be reseeded with warm season grasses to prevent erosion and reduce introduction of invasive species. Groundwater land use controls are in the vicinity of the project area and would be followed during construction. No belowground structures would be constructed, such as basements or belowground rooms. However, this excludes footings required to construct above ground structures. If implemented, construction of the new WTP facilities would likely begin in FY19, followed by an approximately 6-month design and 18-month construction phase, subject to availability of funding. The construction contractor would be obligated to acquire the appropriate state, local, and federal construction permits, likely to include a State National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and applicable LCAAP permits to excavate soil.

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT OF AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS TO AQUATIC RESOURCES: The proposed project has been designed to incorporate all practicable measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate unavoidable adverse impacts to aquatic resources while still meeting the project purpose.

AIR QUALITY: LCAAP as a whole is classified by Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) as a major source of air emissions, requiring monitoring. However, based on the age of the existing WTP and its equipment, the existing facility is grandfathered as part of the air quality permitting process. The proposed project area was reviewed on the Environmental Protection Agency website for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Results indicated that the county in which the project is located is in non-attainment for Sulfur Dioxide (2010). All other NAAQS are in attainment for the project area.

NOISE: No sensitive noise receptors are known to occur in the vicinity of the project area. The closest possible sensitive noise receptor is a church located more than 1-mile away.

WETLANDS/WATERS OF THE U.S: There are no wetlands or waters of the United States within the project area. Construction activities may require the construction contractor to acquire a State National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit from MDNR. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented to reduce erosion and discharge of sediments into adjacent drainages. Examples of BMPs include: keeping heavy construction equipment out of drainages whenever possible, installing silt fences, having a spill containment plans for construction equipment, and using materials that are free from contaminants.

FLOODPLAINS: The proposed project area was reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management. The project area is not located within a 100-year floodplain.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Terrestrial habitat consists of a previously disturbed grass lot, with no trees, and is periodically maintained through mowing activities. There is no aquatic habitat within the project area. Birds and an occasional small mammal are known to occur within the proposed project area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and gray bat have been listed as threatened and/or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and have the potential to occur in the project study area. In compliance with the USFWS Coordination Act and Endangered Species Act, the USFWS was consulted on 10 July, 2018. A preliminary determination was made by USACE that the Recommended Plan would have no effect on the three listed bat species. The USFWS concurred with this determination in an email dated 12 July (Appendix I of the EA).

SOCIOECONOMICS: The region of influence surrounding LCAAP includes Jackson County, Missouri and contains the three neighboring cities: Independence, Blue Springs, and Buckner. Independence and Blue Springs are part of the greater Kansas City metro area.

TRANSPORTATION: Interstate 70 (both east and west bound) provides regional access. State routes that provide access to the installation include Highway 7 and Highway 24. Other methods of transportation includes the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Kansas City Airport, the Kansas City International Airport, and Union Pacific Railroad. LCAAP has one inactive rail spur slated for future tenant use.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The proposed project has been reviewed in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) including a check of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and supplements thereto. Existing structures are considered eligible for inclusion on the NRHP due to their association with World War II and the Cold War era. However, in 2006, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Department of Defense developed Programmatic Agreements for World War II and Cold War era (1939-1974) ammunition storage facilities and army ammunition production facilities that apply to the two WTP structures at LCAAP. LCAAP has determined that the two WTP structures that are eligible for the NRHP meet the conditions of the Program Comments and the adverse effect of the demolition is considered mitigated by its terms. The USACE contacted the SHPO with this determination in a letter dated June 15, 2018. A concurrence letter from SHPO was received on July 19, 2018 (Appendix I of the EA). Additionally, the following Native American Tribes are being contacted through this public review period: Osage Nation, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Kaw Nation, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, and the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

HAZARDOUS, TOXIC, AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE: The proposed project area is located within the boundaries of Area 7 of the Installation-Wide Operable Unit. The proposed project area is within the limits of IWOU-Wide Groundwater Land Use Control boundary; requiring the controls (groundwater) to be followed during construction. The project is intended to disturb groundwater within Area 7.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS: Chapter 5.0 of the EA includes evaluation of temporary, direct, and indirect effects of the proposed project on the environment, as well as potential cumulative impacts resulting from other reasonably foreseeable projects within the study area. Only resource categories that would result in at least minor impacts (beneficial or adverse) as a result of implementing the Preferred Alternative were considered for the cumulative impact assessment.

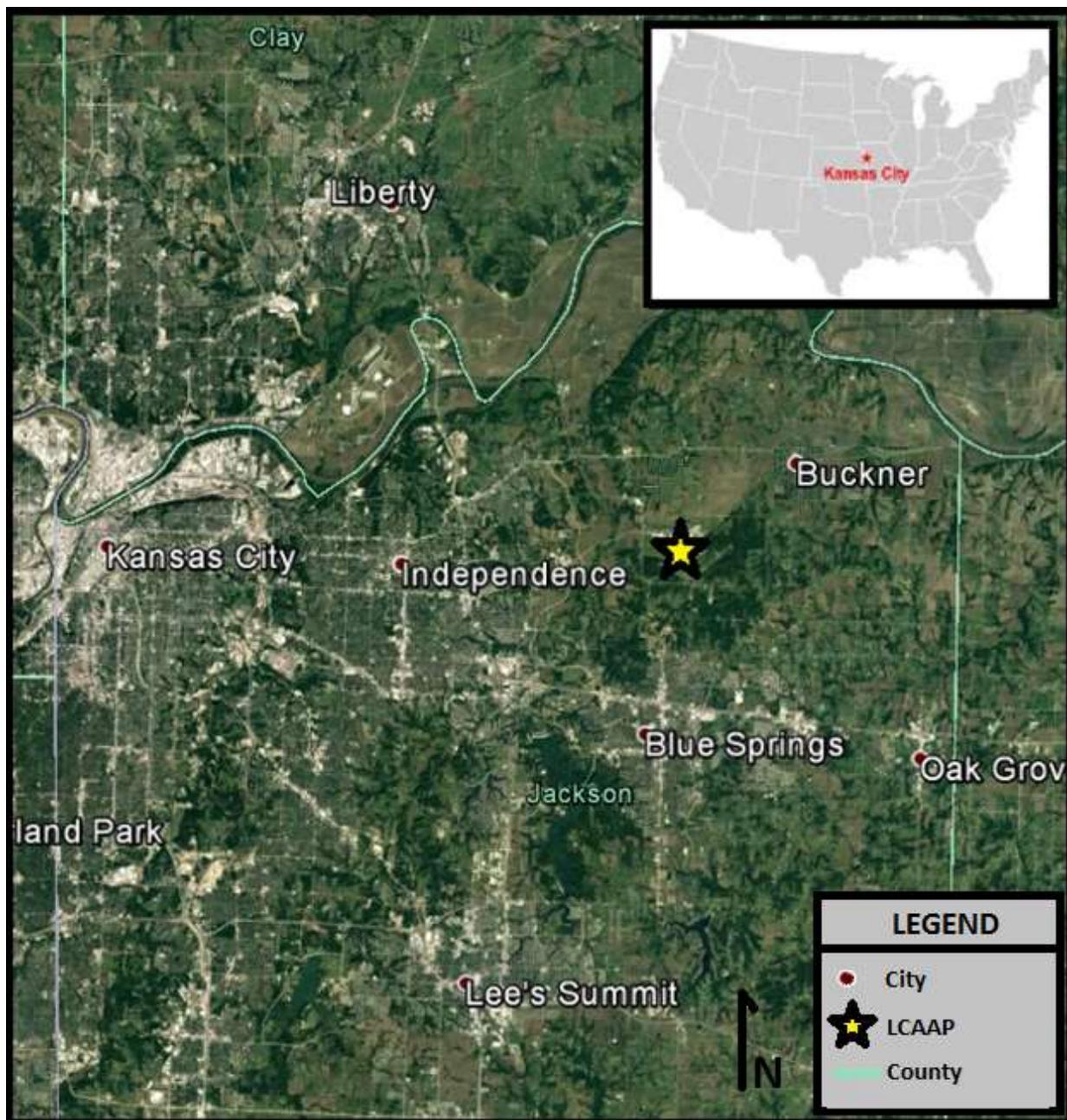


Figure 1. Location of LCAAP Independence, Missouri.

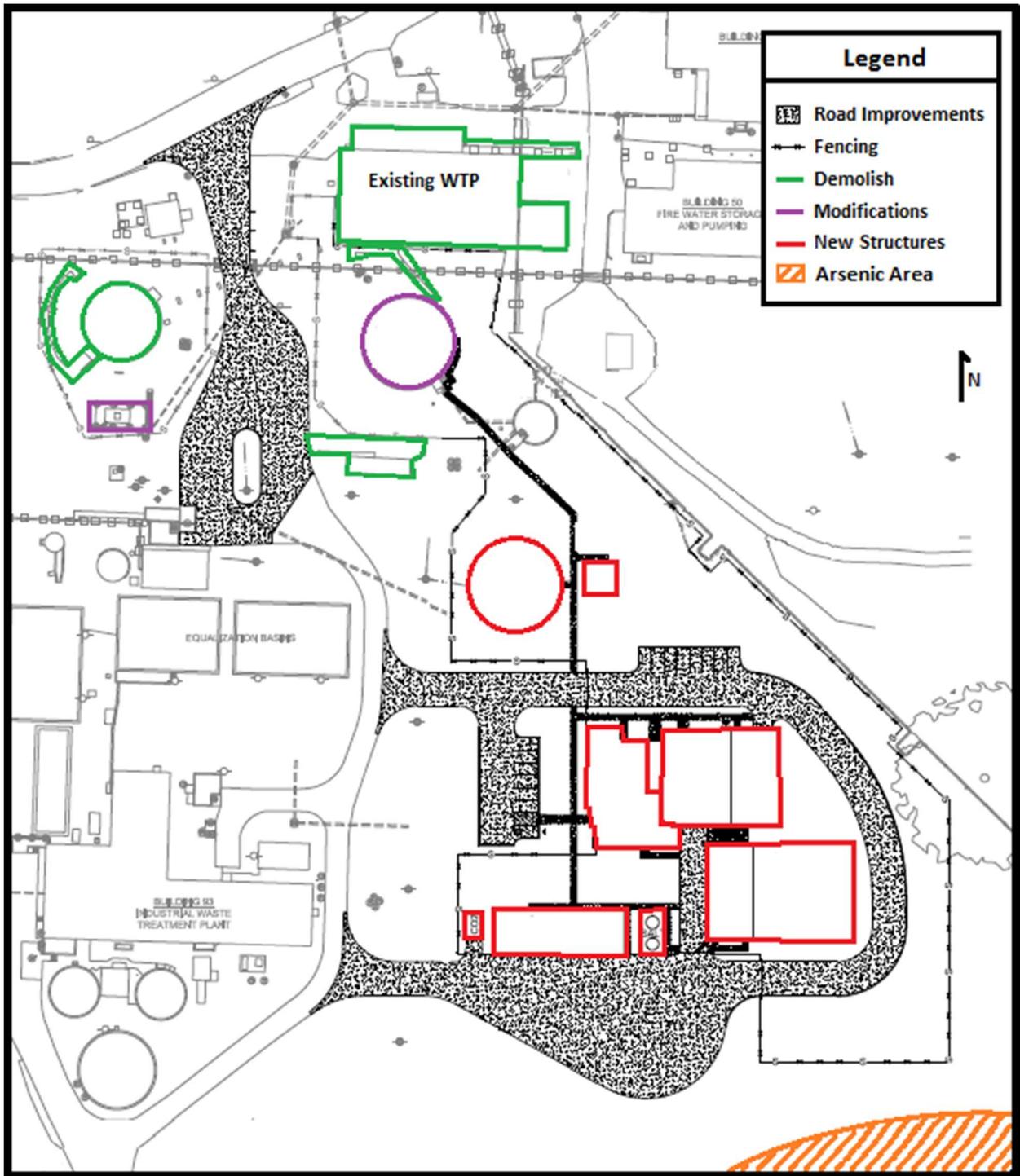


Figure 2. Preferred Alternative - Modernization of WTP Facilities.